

Editorial

Henry Kissinger was Nixon's Iago

On assessing Richard Nixon's time in the White House, it is of interest that many Americans appear to dismiss the whole issue of Watergate as irrelevant. This may be a charitable impulse, or perhaps recognition of a positive role which Nixon has played as elder statesman, particularly since President Clinton took office. It is also a reading on popular disgust with the present farce of "Whitewatergate."

However, eulogies to former President Nixon's role as a statesman and man of peace are off the mark. It is not Watergate for which he should be held to account in the pages of history books, but his trust in that villainous creature, Henry Kissinger. Kissinger's tenure as national security adviser and secretary of state under Nixon, and as national security adviser under President Ford, set the stage for all that is wrong in our foreign policy today.

Shakespeare's tragedy *Othello* describes the situation of a noble ruler who was deliberately destroyed by his trusted adviser, the vicious Iago. Iago played upon Othello's fears that his wife did not love him; Kissinger catered to Nixon's illusions about his own potential greatness as a statesman. The end result in both instances was disaster.

It was Kissinger who implemented the policy of perpetuating instability in the Middle East; Kissinger who advocated a policy of turning the war in Vietnam into a fruitless slaughter, and extending it to Cambodia as a means of helping Pol Pot come to power; Kissinger who enforced International Monetary Fund and World Bank power over developing sector economies, by ruthlessly eliminating all political opposition in those lands.

It is well to note that George Bush, who bequeathed the "new world order" to Clinton, was ambassador to the United Nations, while Nixon was President. His boss was Henry Kissinger. Many of President Clinton's problems today can be laid directly to his failure to break decisively with the policies of his predecessor.

Kissinger admits that he has modeled his public role on that of the Austrian Prince Klemens Metternich. He was the architect of the Holy Alliance system of police states in Europe imposed at the 1815 Congress

of Vienna, which strengthened empires against nation-states, just as the United States is supposed to do for Britain today.

On May 10, 1982, Henry Kissinger addressed the Royal Institute of International Affairs at Chatham House. Here he spilled the beans about how during his period in office, under Presidents Nixon and Ford, he was taking his orders from the British Foreign Office. He puts it a bit more delicately, but the point is obvious. We quote from his speech:

"The British were so matter-of-factly helpful that they became a participant in internal American deliberations, to a degree probably never before practiced between sovereign nations. In my period in office, the British played a seminal part in certain bilateral negotiations with the Soviet Union—indeed, they helped draft the key document. In my White House incarnation then, I kept the British Foreign Office better informed and more closely engaged than I did the American State Department—a practice which, with all affection for things British, I would not recommend be made permanent. But it was symptomatic."

In the Balkans, the British quashed President Clinton's laudable impulse to oppose Serbian genocide with necessary force, and imposed instead their own policy of thinly disguised support of the Serbs. Just as in their early support of Hitler as a tool whom they could use to maintain the balance of power in Europe, so today they seek to use the Serbs.

Kissinger, in his Chatham House speech, reported that during and after World War II, the British saw the Americans as "naive, moralistic, and evading responsibility for helping secure the global equilibrium. The dispute was resolved according to American preferences—in my view, to the detriment of postwar security. . . . Fortunately, Britain had a decisive influence over America's rapid awakening to maturity in the years following."

Let us remember Richard Nixon, tragic figure though he was, with a certain affection. But let us not forget his foolishly trusted Iago, Henry Kissinger, who still lusts for power today.